

D&D Stores, Inc.
276 Franklin Avenue
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March 6, 2014

To: The Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Daniel V. D'Aprile, President & CEO of D&D Stores, Inc./D&D Market a Specialty Grocery Family Owned Business since 1932 on 276 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I am writing to express my support for HB 5314, which would use an estimated \$60 million of the projected state budget surplus to be used to pay a portion of the balance of interest owed on funds the state borrowed from the federal government to keep Connecticut's unemployment compensation system afloat.

As a small business especially in the City of Hartford, we are burdened by some many costs, taxes (property, personal property, advertising costs to combat the stigma of the City), health care increases for staff, increased wages and benefits, the increase of cost of goods sold just to name a few. "Our unemployment compensation taxes are very high and are a major cost factor in our business plans. In addition to our unemployment taxes, we are also paying a federal tax that increases every year, plus special assessments each July. This burden is too much to bear on our own."

We urge you to support HB 5314 because it will benefit our business, Connecticut's economy and prospects for more jobs in the state. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel V. D'Aprile
President/CEO
D&D Stores, Inc.